

Dear Chairman Powell and Commissioners,
As a citizen who wants to be informed about the political and electoral issues that affect my life, I am greatly disappointed by the lack of informative television programming.

Local public affairs programming is virtually non-existent--constituting less than one half of 1% of all local programming. More than half of news broadcasts prior to the 2002 elections did not include a single campaign story. Our democracy is at risk when many Americans don't know basic facts about the candidates or the issues, as was the case in the 2000 elections.

Since broadcasters have clearly failed in their obligation to serve the public interest, the FCC should define meaningful public interest requirements that include local civic and electoral affairs programming. At a minimum, broadcasters should air three hours per week of local civic and electoral affairs programming, with at least two hours devoted to substantive election coverage in the six weeks prior to Election Day.

As the elections approach, a well-functioning democracy demands that citizens have access to a diversity of opinions and voices on the choices confronting us.

Slinging mud is a waste of time; speaking of time, I don't have the time to research what these candidates stand for. They're the ones who want to be elected, therefore they should provide information on who they are, what's gotten them to this point, what they plan to do, why, and how they plan to get there.

Broadcasters and the FCC should encourage the flow of THIS information.

Of course it is my right to vote, but it is also my responsibility -- I need accurate and verifiable information to make an informed decision. To vote "just because I can" is as dangerous as not voting at all. They want to win? They can increase voter turnout by getting effective and necessary information out there.

Sincerely,

Dawn Rodonski

Dawn Rodonski
40 Goodale Avenue
Dover, NJ 078013489